

Jan Wilson inducted into Slippery Rock Hall of Fame

by Michael Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

There was a period of time when schools didn't acknowledge women's athletics. Women didn't have the opportunity to be recognized by their respective school or achieve athletic-related honors. That was the situation Coach Jan Wilson experienced when she was a student at Slippery Rock University.

Despite never actually competing intercollegiate, Coach Wilson was recently inducted into Slippery Rock's Sports Hall of Fame. At the banquet, she was presented with a pewter plaque and a picture plaque to join an elite group of five women who own a spot in Slippery Rock athletic history. Awarding Coach Wilson was Behrend

Athletic Director Herb Lauffer. She was originally nominated over two years ago, but didn't make it. After finally being honored, Coach Wilson credited this opportunity greatly to "people who remembered me." She did take some of the credit though. "I was really thrilled and feel deserving. It was odd because I wasn't an All-American or anything. It's nice though because it gives older women who didn't have programs a chance."

During her college years at The Rock, Coach Wilson competed in what was known as in Intramural Athletic Association. A small number of "girl jocks", as Coach Wilson amusingly put it, participated in self-organized sports. They did form "green" and "white" squads which select women were chosen for. These squads, in which Coach Wilson competed for, traveled to various schools for an opportunity to test their talents against actual opposition.

Coach Wilson was a five-sport athlete. She displayed an amazingly wide range of athletic ability which included competing in a Pittsburgh field hockey league, basketball, volleyball, tennis and softball. She also briefly participated in synchronized swimming. "Basketball was my favorite," Coach Wilson

pointed out.

In looking back on her playing days, Coach Wilson commented that, "I got a lot of developed skill and learned a lot. It (the intramurals) helped me to teach," (referring to coaching now).

Coach Wilson also compared her athletic experiences of the past to what she observes in college athletes presently: "Then competing was a hobby, there was excitement just to get in the gym. Sometimes we would even sneak into the gym when we weren't supposed to," said Coach Wilson happily reminiscing. She went on to add that, "We had that 'go for the gold' attitude. Nowadays the kids still have fun, but it (competing) is more like a job. There weren't specialized (one-sport) athletes then like there are now."

In commenting on the banquet itself, Coach Wilson emphasized that, "What was really neat was being with people that were family-people I went to school with. Joe Paterno was there too, which was a surprise. It was also nice to hear from old classmates again and get their congratulations."

The name of Jan Wilson has now taken its respective place with Slippery Rock sports heroes and heroines of the past, as well as those of the future.



Jan Wilson displays the plate she received at the banquet.

Photo by Holly Lev

Softball opens

by David Bruce
Collegian Staff Writer

After having had six games postponed due to bad weather, the Behrend Women's Softball Team finally opened their season at Pitt-Bradford on April 9th, splitting a doubleheader against the Panthers.

The Cubs won the first game 8-2, thanks to a strong pitching performance by Lisa Hites. The freshman hurler threw a five hitter for the victory. She also helped offensively, with two hits and four stolen bases. Freshmen Chris Hayes also batted well, going 2 for 4 in the opener.

The Cubs were not as fortunate in the second game, losing 17-7. Throwing problems plagued the

team during the nightcap as they committed nine errors altogether. Jodi Buerkle went 3 for 4 and Jill Smith doubled in a losing cause.

After the doubleheader, coach Anne Burbules said, "We played well defensively (in the first game),...and the team is starting to gel."

The coach was pleased with the pitching, and was excited about the play of catcher Lisa Dorenkamp. The freshman receiver, who was making her fast-pitch softball debut, gave a gritty performance.

Still, Coach Burbules sees room for improvement-especially on the basepaths, where she wants the team to be more aggressive.

The Cubs next game will be April 16th at Mercyhurst.

Intramural Volleyball, "The best of the bunch"

by Sean Weaver
Collegian Staff Writer

Setters did their best and spikers hit their hardest in the final days of the intramural volleyball, March 30 and April 1st. It was decided who had the 'stuff' to be the 'best of the bunch.' Up from 37 teams last year, 40 teams in all competed in the yearly event.

The event went well due to the cooperation of the students. "Over all, the students are very cooperative in volleyball intramurals," says Sarah Rose, IM instructor. "The reason for this is the large student involvement in the volleyball Phys Ed class offered at Behrend."

The participation this year was up from last year and was the largest number of teams to date. There was breakdown of 7 womens teams, 18 co-ed teams, and 15 mens teams who competed throughout the event. And of those 3 divisions there were, of course, 3 teams to come out on top. In the womens category Kart II won first place honors by defeating the Manhattans 2 game to zero. Team members include: captain; Julie DiFrancisco, Jayne Hartnett, Barb Byers, Kim Neely Geri-Lyn Faletta, Kathy Williamson, Debbie Maurice, and Sonya Suckles. The champion team had an overall record of 14 wins and 0 losses.

The mens reigning team, FTN

Again, defeated Death Tongue in the championship game 2 games to 1. Team members included captain Doug Pecora, Tim Wilkinson, Dan Gozzard, Jeff Ruhland, Todd Davis, Chris Fontana, and Greg Myler. The mens team had an overall record of 10 wins and 2 losses.

In the Co-ed category, the FTN

Again team (not to be confused with the mens champion team) spiked their way past the Barking Spiders 2 games to 1. Team members included captain Doug Pecora, Todd Davis, Jeff Ruhlman, Reagan Connoran, George Gregory, Beth Stephens, and Tom Wilkinson. The team had

an overall record of 12 wins and 1 loss.

Another season of IM volleyball gone by and a successful at that. And if cooperation and its population continues IM volleyball will continue to produce a successful event for students at Behrend College.

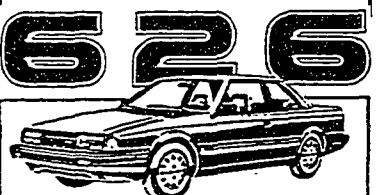


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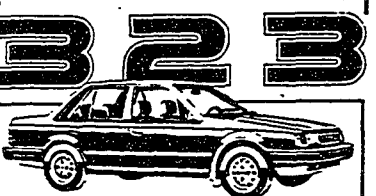


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